

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOGADI 00068 161130Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 161015Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4541

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SEELYE, TALCOTT W.)

SUBJ: GSDR ACCEPTS VISIT BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE

REF: MOGADISCIO 0067

SUMMARY: SOMALIA MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS HAVE HAD "SECOND THOUGHTS" ABOUT THE PROPOSED MOGADISCIO VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE,

AND NOW "ACCEPT" VISIT AND SEELYE

MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE GSDR OFFICIALS. FOR FACE-SAVING PURPOSES, PROBABLY, OFFICIALS SAY THEY EXPECT MEETINGS TO STICK TO SUBJECTS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO GSDR, I.E., U.S. AID TO SOMALIA, AND TO AVOID POLITICALLY SENSITIVE SUBJECTS. END SUMMARY.

1. DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN/AMERICAN AFFAIRS HASSAN KAID ABDILLAH SUMMONED CHARGE JANUARY 15 TO RECEIVE NOTE VERBALE CONCERNING SEELYE VISIT. EXTRACT OF NOTE VERABLE READS "....HAS THE HONOR TO INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE PROPOSED VISIT OF MR. TALCOTT W. WEELYE TO THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. IT IS UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT IN HIS MEETING (SIC) WITH SOMALI OFFICIALS AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL, ONLY MATTERS AND PROPOSALS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST WHICH MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE COOPERATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE BILATERAL RELATION (SIC) WILL BE DISCUSSED".

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOGADI 00068 161130Z

2. HASSAN EXPLAINED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, I.E., DIRECTOR GENERAL DR. ABDURAHMAN JAMA BARRE, HAD HAD "SECOND THOUGHTS" ABOUT UTILITY OF THE SEELYE VISIT AFTER HEARING CHARGE'S VIEWS (REFTEL). BUT THEY BELIEVED SEELYE VEETINGS WITH GSDR OFFICIALS COULD BE USEFUL ONLY IF THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY CONFINED HIMSELF TO WAYS AND MEANS OF

IMPROVING U/SOMALI RELATIONS, SUCH AS RESUMPTION OF US AID, AND REFRAINED FROM "INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING" ON GSDR RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND OTHER SENSITIVE SUBJECTS. SOMALIS WERE RECONCILED TO FACE THAT SOME EXTRANEIOUS "INFORMATION" WOULD "SEEP OUT" DURING MEETINGS, SAID HASSAN, BUT THEY COULD NOT TOLERATE PRYING INTO GSDR'S RELATIONS WITH THIRD-COUNTRIES.

3. HASSAN ADDED THAT HE WOULD SOON BE WRITING TO SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU TO ASK HIM TO CONVEY SOMETHING OF THE ABOVE TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE.

4. CHARGE REPLIED THAT HE WAS GRATIFIED MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD RECONSIDERED THEIR INITIAL NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE SEELYE VISIT. HOWEVER, SUCH VISITS WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO BOTH SIDES WITHOUT ARTICIAL RESTRAINTS ON SCOPE OF DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID HE WAS CERTAIN DEPOUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS OR, AT LEAST, CONSIDER ANY ISSUE RAISED BY GSDR. CHARGE INVITED HASSAN TO MAKE SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS AND TOPICS OF DISCUSSION; LATTER SAID HE WOULFIDO SO IN DUE COURSE.

5. COMMENT: ABDURAHMAN APPARENTLY IS STILL REACTING TO HIS RECENT MEETING WITH SENATRE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBER RICHARDSON, IN WHICH ABDURAHMAN TOOK OFFENSE AT RICHARDSON'S BLUNT QUESTIONS (MOGADISCIO 0021). NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT MINISTRY'S EFFORT TO LIMIT SCOPE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SEELYE AND SOMALI OFFICIALS IS LARGELY FACE-SAVING DEVICE. WORDING OF THE SOMALI NOTE VERBALE IS VAGUE ENOUGH TO MEAN ANYTHING OR NOTHING. WE SEE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOGADI 00068 161130Z

NO NEED TO CALL IN AMBASSADOR ADDOU NOW AND WOULD PREFER TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT HE CHOOSES TO ADD TO PICTURE OF GSDR EXPECTATIONS CONCERNING THE SEELYE VISIT. JACOBS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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